

that years of contrition and repentance will be unable to heal. The great sources of our present prosperity are to be traced to the stability of our legislation, the integrity of our judiciary, and the good faith with which all our engagements have been kept, and our credit sustained. These diligent and intelligent servants of the state who have had charge of our public improvements, have, by their economy, and judicious application of our funds, placed our credit abroad, not only on a high level, but on a permanent basis, and the stern integrity, and persevering industry of our judiciary have been crowned with equally beneficial and salutary effects. I have again and again, whilst on business in our eastern cities, heard our judiciary spoken of in terms that made me proud that I was a citizen of Ohio.

No collision of fraud, sir, says an eminent merchant of one of our eastern cities, can stand before your judiciary. This is the character, gentlemen, that causes capital to seek employment here; this is the character that gives security to our rights, and value to our property, and to these combined causes, are to be attributed a large portion of that flowing prosperity that is felt throughout every portion of our commonwealth.

#### DISASTROUS CONFLAGRATION.

##### THE GENERAL POST-OFFICE AND PATENT OFFICE IN ASHES.

Washington, Dec. 16.—It is with no ordinary regret that we perform the duty of announcing the destruction, by fire, of the building in the center of this city, which has for many years been occupied by the General Post Office, the Patent Office, and the City Post Office, with an important part of the contents of those buildings, including the entire contents of the two latter.

This calamity, great as it is, has long been feared by those old residents of Washington who knew the combustible nature of the building, (the floors being all wood, and some of them not even counterpaneled,) and the custom of storing fuel, not only coal but wood in the vaults underneath the first floor. The calamity has come at last, and affords the second demonstration within four years, of the utter absurdity and imprudence of the structures to which the public archives, records and Government accounts have been hitherto for the most part confided.

The first alarm of fire was given by Mr. Crown, a messenger, who usually sleeps in the room connected with the City Post Office (the Post-Master's own room). The clerk had been at work as usual, the mail, until half past two o'clock, when one of the persons belonging to the office, (Mr. Lansdale) passed out of the East door, and along the whole front of the building, without discovering any thing to raise a suspicion of danger. Not long after three o'clock, Mr. Crown was roused from a slight slumber by the smell of smoke. Opening the door of the City Post Office, he perceived a dense smoke, without any visible appearance of fire. He gave the alarm instantly, first arousing Mr. Cox, one of the clerks, who slept in a back room adjoining the post office, and who, coming out of the door of his room, passed along the whole of the long room with difficulty through the smoke, hearing the fire crackling, but being able to see nothing. The watchman in the body of the building, some distance from the City Post Office, had perceived nothing of the smoke, until they also, were alarmed by Mr. Crown.

The hour of the night when all this took place being one at which the whole world is buried in the deepest sleep, it was found almost impossible to spread the alarm of fire. One of the church bells began to ring, but the ringer, not seeing any flame, ceased ringing almost as soon as he began, and it was a full half hour before the alarm bells were rung, and more than that time before an engine or a bucket of water could be commanded. As it was, the fire had its own way, and was at last seen in the vault or cellar immediately under the delivery window of the City Post Office; followed shortly afterwards by flames from the windows of the latter, and, within five minutes afterwards, by flames from the roof, the fire having crept up along the staircases or partition to the top of the building, before it broke out below.

From the moment of the flames bursting out from the lower windows, it was obvious that all hopes of saving the building were vain. In little more than an hour the whole interior of the building and its contents were destroyed.

The books of the General Post Office were all, or nearly all saved, exertions having been made for their safety from nearly the first moment of the alarm; but a mass of papers, &c., belonging to the office were destroyed. Not a thing saved from the Patent Office, or the City Post Office, the volume of some prevent any body from penetrating the latter, so as to save any thing.

As to the origin of the fire, it is impossible to say any thing, for nothing seems to be known of it, except that it was in a cellar or vault, in which pine wood and coal were stored, all which were probably in a state of ignition before the fire discovered itself to the eye. We do not willingly forbear any conjecture as to the cause of the fire, since both Houses of Congress have taken steps, through committees, to investigate, and in one House with power to send for persons and papers.

Most fortunately, the night was calm and comparatively serene, or the destruction of private property would have been inevitable and great. Had it occurred on the night previous, when the wind blew almost a hurricane, several squares of valuable buildings must have been destroyed. The means of the city for extinguishing fires are wholly inadequate to the value of the property at stake, and the sources for the supply of water for the engines are limited in their extent, as well as precarious. We trust that the lesson we have just received, will not be lost on those who have it in their power to apply the remedy.

Of all the amount of loss of papers and property sustained by this disaster, that which is most to be regretted (because irreparable) is that of the whole of the great repository of models of machines in the Patent Office. The smouldering ashes now only remain of that collected evidence of the penetration, ingenuity and enterprise which peculiarly distinguish the descendants of Europe in the Western world.—*National Intelligencer.*

#### CONGRESS.

Reported for the Courier and Enquirer.  
SENATE—Monday, Dec. 12.

Mr. Black, of Mississippi, appeared in his seat to-day, as also did Mr. Webster and Mr. Tallmadge.

Mr. Robinson, on leave, introduced a bill to extend the provisions of the Pension Act, which was read and ordered to a second reading.

#### TREASURY ORDER.

Mr. Ewing, of Ohio, pursuant to notice, asked and obtained leave to introduce a Joint Resolution to rescind the Treasury Order of July 11, 1835, and to render it unlawful hereafter in any Secretary of the Treasury, to designate any particular kind of money which should be received in payment for the Public Lands, so as to favor particular banks. The resolution was read and ordered to a second reading.

Mr. Benton gave notice, that the second reading of the joint resolution would call forth some debate in the Senate, that he himself should feel himself called on to oppose the joint resolution, and in the course of his remarks, to make an expose for his own justification. The Senator from Ohio also, as he understood had an expose to offer. He made these remarks that the Senate might not be taken by surprise.

Mr. Moore, pursuant to notice, asked and obtained leave to introduce certain private bills, which were read and ordered to a second reading.

Mr. Benton asked and obtained leave to introduce the bills of which he had given notice, which were read and ordered to a second reading.

Mr. Tipton also obtained leave to introduce a bill, of which he had given notice, which was read and ordered to a second reading.

[All these are bills on which there was no final action at the last session.]

Mr. Morris gave notice that he should, tomorrow, ask leave to introduce a bill to limit sales of Public Lands to actual settlers.

The resolution offered by Mr. Benton relative to the printing of the annual statement of Commerce and Navigation, was taken up, and, on motion of Mr. Knight, was amended by the substitution of a joint resolution, limiting the price and designating extra copies to be printed. The resolution was ordered to be engrossed.

#### ELECTION OF SECRETARY.

The Senate, on motion of Mr. King, of Alabama, proceeded to the election of a Secretary. On the first ballot, there appeared to be 41 votes, of which Mr. Ashbury Dickens had 20, Mr. Naudain had 18, and 3 were scattering. On the second ballot the number of votes was 40, of which Mr. Dickens received 22 votes, Mr. Naudain had 18, and Mr. Bryan 1. Mr. Dickens was therefore declared to be duly elected.

#### ELECTION OF COMMITTEES.

On motion of Mr. Hubbard, the Senate then proceeded to the election of the Standing Committees, as far as regards the election of a Chairman for each Committee, which is always determined by a separate ballot. The following is the order in which the Chairmen were balloted for, and the names of the successful Senators appended.

Foreign Relations—Mr. Buchanan.  
Finance—Mr. S. Wright.  
Commerce—W. King, of Ala.  
Manufactures—Mr. Niles.  
Agriculture—Mr. Page.  
Military Affairs—Mr. Benton.  
Naval Affairs—Mr. Rives.  
Public Lands—Mr. Walker.  
Private Land Claims—Mr. Linn.  
Indian Affairs—Mr. White.  
Claims—Mr. Hubbard.  
Revolutionary Claims—Mr. Brown.  
Judiciary—Mr. Grundy.  
Post Office and Post Roads—Mr. Robinson.

Roads and Canals—Mr. Hendricks.  
Pensions—Mr. Tomlinson.  
District of Columbia—Mr. Kent.  
Engrossed Bills—Mr. Morris.

The further balloting for the purpose of filling up the Committees was postponed till to-morrow.

On motion of Mr. Tipton, it was resolved that in token of respect for the memory of the Hon. D. L. Kinnard, the Senators will wear wreaths on the left arm for thirty days.

#### COINAGE.

Mr. Benton offered the following resolution, which lies over for consideration:

Resolved, That the Committee on Finance be instructed to inquire into the expediency of abolishing the present copper coinage of the United States, and of substituting therefor a coinage of mixed metal, compounded of copper and silver, and called in the French language *billon*.

Resolved, That the said committee enquire into the expediency of directing a gold coin of the value of one dollar to be stamped at the mints of the United States. The Senate then adjourned.

#### SENATE—Tuesday, Dec. 13, 1835.

Mr. RIVES presented the credentials of the Hon. Richard E. Parker, elected by the Legislature of the State of Virginia a Senator from that State, to supply the vacancy occasioned by the resignation of the Hon. Benjamin Watkins Leigh.

Mr. Brown presented the credentials of the Hon. Robert Strange, elected by the Legislature of the State of North Carolina, a Senator from that State, to supply the vacancy occasioned by the resignation of the Hon. W. P. Mangum.

The Vice President then administered to Messrs. Parker and Strange, the oath to support the Constitution of the United States; and they took their seats in the Senate.

Mr. WEBSTER presented two petitions, numerously signed by citizens of Boston, praying for the abolition of redaction of the duty on foreign coal, which was referred to the committee on manufactures.

On motion of Mr. Hendricks, the petition of the inhabitants of Michigan city, praying for a port of entry, presented at the last session, was again referred to the committee on commerce; and similar memorials from the citizens of Lafayette and Delphi, Indiana, were again referred in like manner.

Mr. Tallmadge submitted the following resolution, which lies one day for consideration:

Resolved, That the Committee on Post Office and Post Roads be directed to inquire into the expediency of furnishing some of the principal post offices in the United States with copies of the maps of the post offices and post roads, which have

been compiled under the direction of the Post Office Department.

Mr. WRIGHT gave notice that he would to-morrow ask leave to bring in a bill supplementary to the act establishing the mint, and for the regulation of the coins of the United States.

Mr. CLAY gave notice that he would to-morrow ask leave to introduce a bill to appropriate, for a limited time, the proceeds of the sales of the public lands, and to grant lands to certain states, and for other purposes.

The following bills were severally read the second time, and referred to appropriate committees:

The bill to establish a foundry and armory in the west or southwest, arsenals in certain states and territories;

The bill granting a township of land to the French University of St. Louis, Missouri;

A bill to authorize Peter Warner, of Indiana, to purchase a certain half section of land;

The bill supplementary to the act entitled an act to provide for an exchange of lands with certain Indian tribes, and their removal beyond the Mississippi;

The bill granting to the State of Missouri a certain quantity of land for the purpose of internal improvement;

The bill supplementary to the act to amend the Judicial system of the United States;

The bill for the payment of a debt due to the heirs of Antoine Pollet;

The bill to prohibit the sales of the public lands except to actual settlers, and in limited quantities.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The appointment of the following committees was announced.

On Commerce: Messrs. Sutherland, Puckney, Pearce of R. I. Gillet, Phillips, Johnson of La., Ingham, Cushman, McKee.

Public Lands: Messrs. Boon, Williams, of N. C., Lincoln, Casey, Kennan, Dunlap, Chapman, Harrison, of Mo., Yell.

Post Offices and Post Roads: Messrs. Connor, Briggs, Laporte, Hall of Vt., Cleveland, French, Shields, Hopkins, Kilgore.

Dist. of Columbia: Wm. A. Shepard, Heister, Bouldin, Washington, Lane, Rogers, Fairfield, Moore, Claiborne.

Public Expenditures: Messrs. Page, Claiborne, McClure.

Judiciary: Messrs. Thomas, Hardin, Pierce of N. H., Robertson, Peyton, Toussaint, Martin, Vanderpool, Ripley.

Revolutionary Claims: Messrs. Muhlenberg, Crane, Standifer, Turritt, Beaumont, Craig, Chapin, Underwood, Weeks, Mason of Maine, Leonard, Halsey, White, Pearson, Chetwood.

Private Land Claims: Messrs. Linn, Galbraith, Patterson, Chambers of Mo., May, Huntsman, Lawler, Slade, Gerland of Louis.

Manufactures: J. Q. Adams, Denny, McComas, Webster, Gideon Lee, Granger, Bynum, Fowler, Whitley of Conn.

Elections: Claiborne of Va., Griffin, Hawkins, Barnes, Kilgore, Buchanan, Maury, Boyd, Young.

Ways and Means: Cambreleng, McKim, Loyal, Corwin, Johnson of Tenn., Smith, Lawrence, Ingalls, Owens.

Claims: Whitley of Ohio, Forrester, Grinnell, Jarvis, Taliferro, Chambers of Ky., Darlington, Graham, Russell.

On Agriculture: Bockee, Bean, Shinn, Deberry, Bailey, Logan, Phelps, Effler, Black.

On Indian Affairs: Bell, McCarthy, Everett, Ashley, Claiborne, Haynes, Hawes, Montgomery, Garland of Va., Griffin.

On Military Affairs: Johnson of Ky., Ward, Thompson of Ohio, Bunch, McKay, Anthony, Mann of New York, Coles and Glascock.

On the Militia: Glascock, Henderson, W. B. Fuller, Wagner, Calhoun of Mass., Joshua Lee of New York, Carter, Holt, Graves.

On Naval Affairs: Jarvis, Milligan, Lansing, Reed Parker, Grayson, Wise, Ash, Grantland.

On Foreign Affairs: Howard, Cramer, Hamer, Allan of Ky., Banks, Rend, Cushing, Jackson of Ga., Dromgold, Ketchum.

On Territories: Patton, Potts, Brown, Perkins, Pease, of Md., Hall of Maine, Johnson of Va., Boyd, Miller.

On Revolutionary Pensions: Wardwell, Lea of Tenn., Jay, Lanes, Sorer, Morgan, Kingensmith, Bond, Fry of Tenn.

On Invalid Pensions: Beale, Schenck, Taylor, Harrison of Pa., Doubleday, Hoar, Howell, Jenney, Williams of Ky.

On Roads and Canals: Mercer, Vinton, Lucas, Reynolds of Illinois, Steele, Calhoun of Ky., Evans, McKennan, Hard.

On Revised and Unfinished Business: Huntington, Mann of Penn., Mason of Ohio, Harlan, Farlin.

Committee on Accounts: Lee of New Jersey, Hall of Maine, Johnson of Vir., Tucker, McKenney.

The Committee on Expenditures on the Public Departments, are the same as last year.

Petitions and memorials were called for in the order of States and Territories.

Mr. Adams presented a petition from 1100 citizens of Boston, praying for a removal of the duty on foreign coal, and moved its reference to the committee on Manufactures.

Mr. Patton moved its reference to the committee on Ways and Means.

Mr. Adams considered the subject one which affected the whole tariff and the manufactures of the country. He called for the yeas and nays on the question of reference, which were ordered.

Mr. Lincoln wishing to make some remarks, the subject lies over until to-morrow.

Resolutions were then called for. A monger others the following were offered.

Mr. Fry of Penn. offered a resolution directing the committee of Ways and Means to enquire into the expediency of immediately abolishing the duties on foreign grain and bread stuffs of all kinds.

Mr. Reed moved to amend the resolution by inserting the committee on Agriculture—which amendment was adopted; yeas 87, nays 67. The question recurring on the adoption of the resolution as amended:

Mr. Adams moved to amend it, by inserting the words, "and also on foreign coal, salt and iron."

Mr. Williams, of N. C., moved to amend further, by inserting the word "sugar."

On motion of Mr. Davis, of Ind. the further consideration of the resolution was postponed until Monday next.

Mr. Mercer offered a resolution instructing the Committee on Ways and Means to

report a Bill to amend the 13th section of the Deposit Bill, passed at the last session, so as to release the States from any obligation to return the portions of the surplus revenue which they might receive.

Mr. Dunlap, of Tenn. moved to lay the resolution on the table; on which motion the Yeas and Nays were ordered, and were Yeas 128—Nays 73. So the resolution was laid on the table.

On motion of Mr. Childs, of N. Y. the yeas of the hall was granted to the American Colonization Society for its annual meeting.

Mr. McKee offered the following:

Resolved, That the Committee on Commerce be directed to inquire into the expediency of regulating the pilots in the Atlantic ports of the United States. Adopted.

Mr. Jarvis offered the following resolution, which was adopted:

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Navy be directed to furnish this House with the names of the officers of the Navy who have during the year 1835, received orders for service, and who have asked to be excused, together with the reasons offered by them for such indulgence. [Lies one day.]

The House adjourned.

From the Detroit Free Press.

The opposition papers are now publishing two letters from Nicholas Biddle to the Hon. John Q. Adams, in relation to the measures of the administration with regard to the bank and the currency. The tone and style of the letters are in the highest degree abusive and insolent towards the public authorities, and must satisfy every one of their authors. They have been before long against the bank, with regard to its meddling with the political affairs of the country. A writer in the N. Y. Evening Post who wields a caustic pen, has reviewed them in a style which shows up the great egotism in his proper colors. We make a few extracts from the Review.

"It would be tedious, and indeed useless, to follow the bank president, step by step, in his luminous exposition of the causes of the alleged money pressure in New York, because it would be only chasing a shadow in the hope of running down a reality. Let every man walk the streets of this city, and see what a scene of luxury and expenditure they exhibit! What hundreds, I may say, thousands of splendid houses and stores, five or six stories high, are rising up in every direction, greater in number than all the capitals in Europe exhibit. Let him count the equipages, admire the wives, daughters, and little children, clothed in all the colors of the rainbow; and above all let him dine with these very men who are raising the cry of universal distress, assist in discussing all the delicacies of the season, and top off with a few bottles of wine which cost sixty or seventy dollars a dozen, and then judge for himself what right these luxurious nabobs have to stun the nation with their ostentatious lamentations. The distresses they suffer are brought on their own heads by their own extravagance, and desperate efforts to support it by overtrading and speculation."

"I have little doubt," says the bank president, "that the specie order is the revenge of the president upon congress for passing the distribution law;" and I only quote this passage to exhibit the peevish resentment of this little man towards one who occupies a sphere, and acts on principles, so entirely different from the bank president, that the latter can no more comprehend his motives or his acts than the caterpillar that crawls up a oak of the forest, can estimate its uses, its strength or its duration. His invectives against Andrew Jackson are somewhat analogous to the tale of the rat, who found fault with a noble and magnificent house, because he could not gnaw his way through its walls and plunder the inside.

To conclude—"I go for my country, [does he not mean my bank?] best loved when most governed. It will afford more gratification to assist in repairing its wrongs than to triumph over those who inflict them." Does not the judicious reader laugh outright at this exhibition of puny self complacency? The maggot that devours the cheese, thinks he can make the cheese. The bank president expects to triumph over the people of the United States, and then he means to be magnanimous, and forgive them. I should be astonished at this over estimate of himself, did I not recollect that he is at the head of millions, not of men, but of money; and that beyond all doubt Philip's ass, which opened the gates of a city by means of the bags of gold he carried, erected his ears, brayed in triumph, and assumed all the airs of a hero.

It is stated in a morning paper, that the money market is becoming easier, and that this pleasing circumstance is ascribed to the letter of the bank president. Great little man! Talk of Mr. Van Buren being a Magician and Mathias a prophet.

I am yours &c. A. B.

From Buenos Ayres.—By the arrival of the ship BETTUS, ADAMS, from Buenos Ayres, we have received files of papers to the 12th Oct. They contain no news, however, of much importance. Every thing appears quiet there. A despatch had been received by the Governor from Col. Pezaro Ramos, dated Punta del Arroyo Papague 1st Oct., stating that the force under his command had routed a division of Borogas Chilian Indians, who, at daylight, on 1st, had surprised the Tolderia of the friendly Indians, robbed them of their horses, and bore away the major part of their families. The Col. states, that as soon as he received an account of the affair, he proceeded with some cavalry and friendly Indians in search of the enemy. Having overtaken them, they did not wait for the attack, but charged Col. Ramos's force with the greatest intrepidity, doubtless animated with the recent triumph they had obtained.

They were however repulsed, and attacked in their turn; but they made a brave resistance, and held their ground for nearly three hours, although repeatedly charged. At the end of that time they retreated, and were pursued and cut down for seven leagues, when the pursuit was discontinued in consequence of the weakness of the ground from heavy rains and the jaded state of the horses. Only a few Indians escaped, more than 200 of them were killed, and all the families and booty they had taken from the friendly Indians, recaptured. Col Ramos's loss was 28 killed, and 39 wounded; amongst the wounded were

Adjutant Jann Pablo, (seriously), Captain Jose Morailles, and Brevet Lieut. Mariano Roto, (slightly.) The Indians had amongst the killed, their principal Cacique, and seven inferior chieftains.—*Cour & Eng.*

Correspondence of the Courier & Enquirer.

NEW ORLEANS, Dec. 10, 1835.

By the Brig CAROL arrived from Matagorda, we learn that the military preparations of the Mexicans on the coast of Matamoros, give great uneasiness to the people there. The Texan army, 1500 strong, is still cantoned on the banks of Labaca on the Gaudaloupe river, having detached two or three parties of cavalry as far as San Antonio to drive off all the cattle that could be found in those prairies; so that should the Mexicans venture again to invade the country they will find no resources from the banks of Rio Grande to Matagorda, a distance of 500 miles. The same plan of warfare is to be adopted in the whole country: the Texans in case of invasion would return to their strong holds on the Colorado, where Santa Anna's army received the mortal blow.

Two schooners are daily expected from Tampico with specie.

The total number of shares subscribed for the Ocean Steam Navigation Co. amounted to day to \$457, making \$348,200. It is expected that the three municipalities will take at least 100 shares, in which case but \$4,000 will be wanted to make up the \$500,000.

The last frost has materially injured the sugar cane in the plantations; though probably not as much as the planters pretend.

Per French Brig-of-War Gascelle, port late Venezuela.

Mexico, Nov. 8, 1835.

Within the last fortnight four thousand infantry and cavalry all well equipped, and a great number of warlike stores, have left this city for the army destined for Texas, and if we may rely on the publications, a competent maritime force is nearly ready to sail to punish the Texans. Bravo is the appointed Commander of the land forces, and will shortly leave here for Matamoros. Whether these forces are really destined for Texas, or to promote some political plan, it is impossible to say. The people generally seem to care little about the Texans. The present administration is more firm than that of Santa Anna. The coffers of the Treasury are empty, and no military resources to be had. The market is overstocked, and nobody ventures to sell on credit, owing to the uncertainty as to the result of these military preparations.

On the introduction of the New Year, we tender to our patrons the compliments of the season, with the full and hearty desire, that they may enjoy many years of health and prosperity; in the overflowing abundance of peace and plenty, as well as in the pleasant anticipations to be derived from the certain prospect of soon being inhabitants of a state in the Union.

With this short note, from the old to the new year, are many considerations, vastly important. The years roll on and expire, each with some incidents, peculiar to itself—each bringing its thousands into life and activity, and hurrying off its other thousands, through the variegated and multiplied forms of death, to silence and forgetfulness. Is there not, however, reluctant every being in the world to be made the self-sacrifice, a truth in the warning to those now alive, in the admonition to one of old, "This year thou shalt die."—This—because a solemn, and to some an awful thought—is not to be hurried from the reflecting mind. Though harsh the grating sentence sound, all the turmoil thus caused is made smooth in a word—PREPARATION.

Among the scenes of the year just past, were many changes different from any that will be enacted during the present. The political warfare of the national spirit, is once more suspended, and it may be expected, that honest men may enjoy their various opinions and principles, during the current year, with fewer peltings from licentious presses, than was enjoyed the year now ended. Yet, that all scandal should cease, we might as rationally expect to see sweet waters flow from a bitter fountain, or that accustomed to do evil learning to do well. This new administration will of course be as much the subject of abuse from the vituperating opponents, whose animosity was the more embittered by defeat, as the candidates were of personal slings. The press that is so mean and contemptible last year, will, in many of them as can get patronage, continue low and contemptible still. Licentiousness will never end, till the patrons of licentious writers and publishers shall have been reformed, so as to withhold their support from all presses of that character.

We have cause of congratulation, in entering upon the new year, after the success of the late campaign, in view of the peace that already reigns in place of the recent party contentions, as well as in the prospect of a speedy end to that posture of anxiety and uncertainty in which our state has labored all of last year. These reflections, in view of the plentiful supply of the productions of the soil, throughout this favored region, ought to draw from every heart, ascriptions of praise and thanksgiving, to the Supreme Dispenser of all our blessings—perpetually, throughout the year upon which we have just entered.

With the present number commences the second half year of our establishment. All we have to say, in regard to our course onward is, that we purpose keeping clear, as we have thus far, of all securities and personalities, and to lay before our patrons each reading as shall be found useful and instructing, and which shall not incline parents to withhold the paper from the perusal of their children, through fear of poisoning their minds. In fine, patrons, intending to do the best we can—we wish you all a happy new year.

Fire at Niles.—We are informed that several buildings were destroyed by fire at Niles, in Berrien county, on Thursday night, the 29th ult. as follows:

Store of Jasper Mason, and nearly all the contents, consisting of a stock of \$25,000; Store of the M. S. Watson, goods saved; a dwelling house and shop and a tin shop—buildings all belonging to Mr. Mason; and a Rice kept by Mr. Derby. Loss estimated at \$33,000; 5,000 insured.

Fire supposed to have taken from the stove pipe in the second story. Two men sleeping in the upper room, were obliged to jump out of the second story window to save their lives.

THE MARSHALL TIMES, is the title of a new paper in Calhoun county, by JOHN GREENE, recently proprietor of the Geneva (N. Y.) Gazette. We announced, but two or three weeks since, the establishment of a new and excellent democratic journal, the Patriot, by Mr. Boney, at the same village. The Times is also a handsomely printed and well conducted democratic paper. For the property of both establishments, the editors have our best wishes. From the indications thus given, Marshall must soon become a large and flourishing town.

The storm on the night of the 29th ult., was tremendous in Buffalo and eastward. There was much suffering among the poor families on the flats. The docks were overflowed and somewhat damaged, and the Journal speaks of it as equal to the great storm a year ago. On one of the streets, a boat, in which were several persons, was caught in the floating ice and detained several hours, until reached and rescued, at length, by two other boats. One of the men was so badly frozen in the feet that he could not stand. Though it was not known that any lives were lost, yet the individual suffering must have been severe and extensive. We looked upon those who raised up tenement's of the fire, in putting them last fall, as sympathizing traps, calculated on purpose to draw large ly upon Buffalo benevolence, at every flooding of Lake Erie.

Of those who yet had their lives enduring afflictions and cold, in shivering beds of wretchedness, and through whose poverty many lives were saved, honorable mention is made in the pages of the Times, Charles H. Alden, Wm. Sumner, H. N. Holt, W. McKisson, S. J. T. Bell, Capt. Chase, and All Princes.

At Rochester, the windows of the "Genesee House" were blown in, and the new brick dwelling of Anson House, Esq. on South St. Paulus, was unroofed.

The papers state, that considerable damage was done to the shipping, both at Philadelphia and New Haven, and that at the latter place a large brick building was unroofed.

The particulars of the second great conflagration of the public property at Washington, will be found in today's paper, copied from the National Intelligencer. A resolution of inquiry into the matter, was immediately adopted by the house of representatives. We hope congress will be admonished by this warning, to make some pretty thorough provision for future security, at the expense even of some thousands of dollars. The value of the property destroyed in the present office alone, would have more than paid the expenses of a sufficient number of engines, and a well equipped corps of firemen, ever in readiness to protect the public departments.

The Intelligencer does not account for the origin of the fire; but the correspondent of the Journal of Commerce attributes it to the coal and wood vaults having been used as a depository for shoes—carefully saved specimens of office—by the messengers and subordinates of the three offices in the building—marking that "It is unnecessary to explain in the process whereby dry pine wood may be ignited, through the means of burning candles."

In relation to the destruction of the city post office, the several heads of department have given notice, that all letters and communications which reached Washington on the afternoon or night of Dec. 14, were destroyed.

The Niles Free Bridge, we learn from the Gazette, is completed, through the enterprise of O. P. Leary, Esq. across the St. Joseph, at the foot of Broadway; a work of great benefit to that place, and of general utility to the travelling public who pass that way.

Our past editor, beyond Albany, notes it as alarming to modern houses, that high, solid boots project the knees, diminish the calf, and destroy the symmetry of the leg. But say anything among the dandy stock, that will "diminish the calf," ought to be viewed as encouraging, rather than alarming.

A petition to the legislature of this state, is in circulation in this county, for an act to allow a bounty on the destruction of Wolves, of \$25. The great adaptability of the St. Joseph country to the growing of wool, makes it important that early and prompt measures be taken, for the extermination of so ruinous an enemy.

Who was Judge Longstreet, that his opinions should be worth preserving? No matter; we cut the paragraph out of a paper sometime since, and think it now worthy the special consideration of all such of our readers, who are not yet patrons or subscribers.

Newspapers.—Hon. Judge Longstreet says: "Small is the sum required to patronize a newspaper, and amply remunerated is the patron. I care not how humble and unpromising the paper which he takes. It is next to impossible to fill a sheet with printed matter fifty-two times a year, without putting in something that is worth the subscription price. Every parent whose son is off from home at school, should be supplied with a newspaper. I well remember what a marked difference there was between those of my schoolmates who had and those who had not access to newspapers. Other things being equal, the first were always decidedly superior to the last, in debate and conversation at least. The reason is plain; they had command of more facts. A newspaper is a history of current events, as well as a copious and interesting miscellany, and which youth will read with delight, when they will read nothing else."

Spain.—The Courier and Enquirer gives the following brief extract from a long speech by the Queen of Spain, on the opening of the general cortes, Oct. 24. This paragraph is on the change in the government:

"No sooner was I convinced that it was really the will of the nation, that the monarchial Constitution proclaimed at Cadix, should be re-established, than I hastened to swear to the observance of it, and ordered that it should be sworn to and observed as the fundamental law of the kingdom. At the same time, seeing that it was the desire of the people, that this constitution should be revised and corrected in order to make it more compatible with the purposes for which it was established, I convened the Cortes to deliberate on the measures of salutary reform required. I also summoned around me and formed my administration of persons deserving my entire confidence, and who already known to the people would I believed inspire them with confidence also. I hope that this has been the effect of their conduct while in office, and if in some instances they have been compelled to deviate from the strict letter of the law, I have no doubt they have been compelled to it by the irresistible necessity of saving the State, and that it will be approved by the Cortes."

Our neighbor, Mr. H. Barnes, we perceive, has again become proprietor and editor of the Niles Gazette, first established and respectfully conducted by him something over a year ago. The establishment has been in other hands the last six months—by whom some things were done, which might for the credit of the concern but have been left undone. With Mr. Barnes at the head again, the paper comes up at once to its original standard of respectability; and he promises, as soon as materials can be obtained, to enlarge it to the size of the Detroit Free Press—assuring his patrons, that nothing shall be left undone on his part to render the Gazette a welcome visitor, wherever it goes. Success to his well-conducted enterprise.

The legislature of South Carolina finally, after having in causes reached to support none for president, went next to that in their official capacity, and in the wanted official manner of that state, chose electors to vote for WILLIAM MANOR, of North Carolina, for President, and JOHN TILLEY, of Virginia